New Evidence Adds Weight To 'Sewer Assassin' Theory

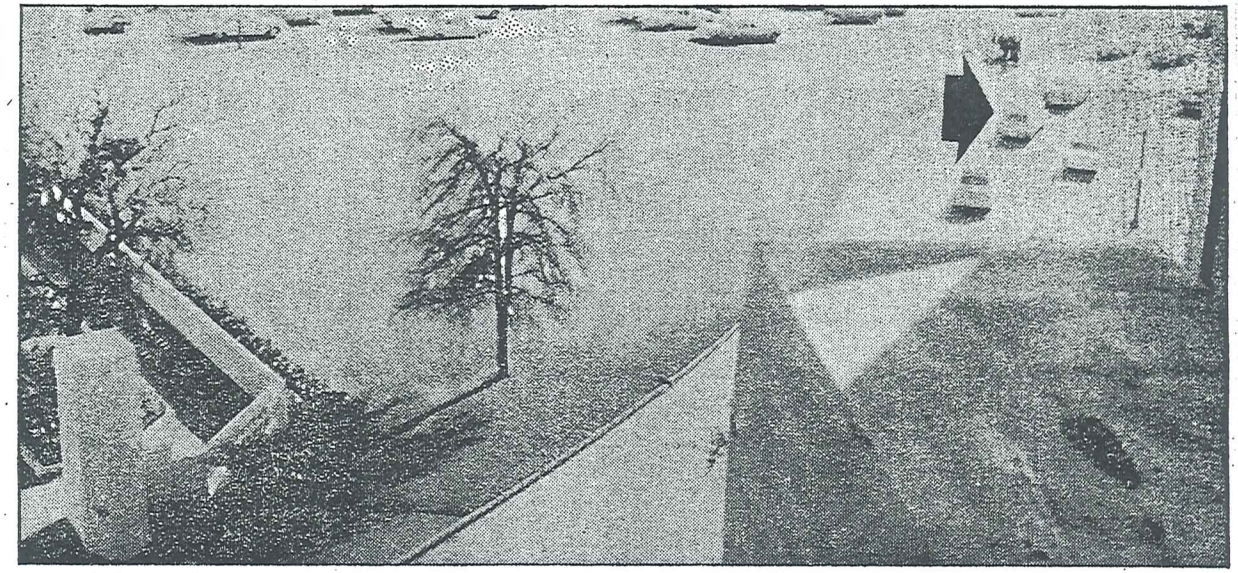
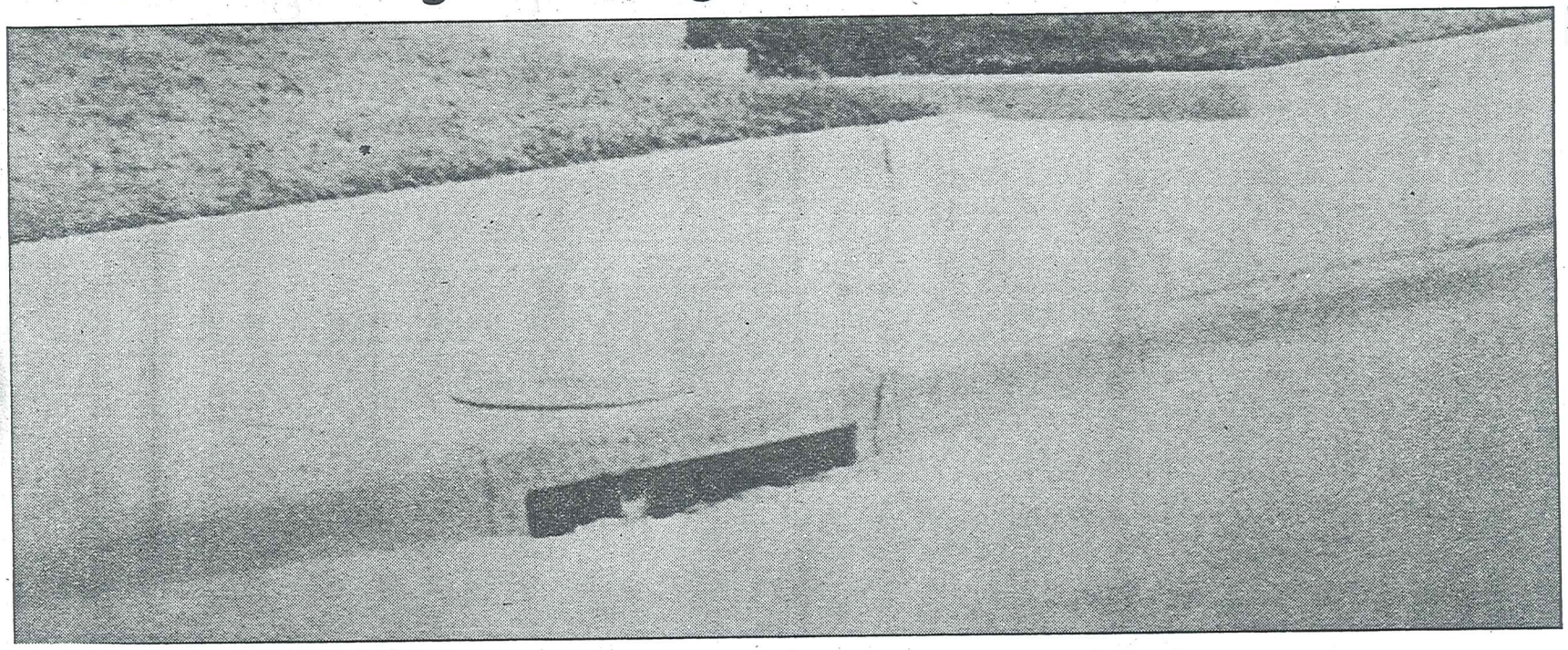


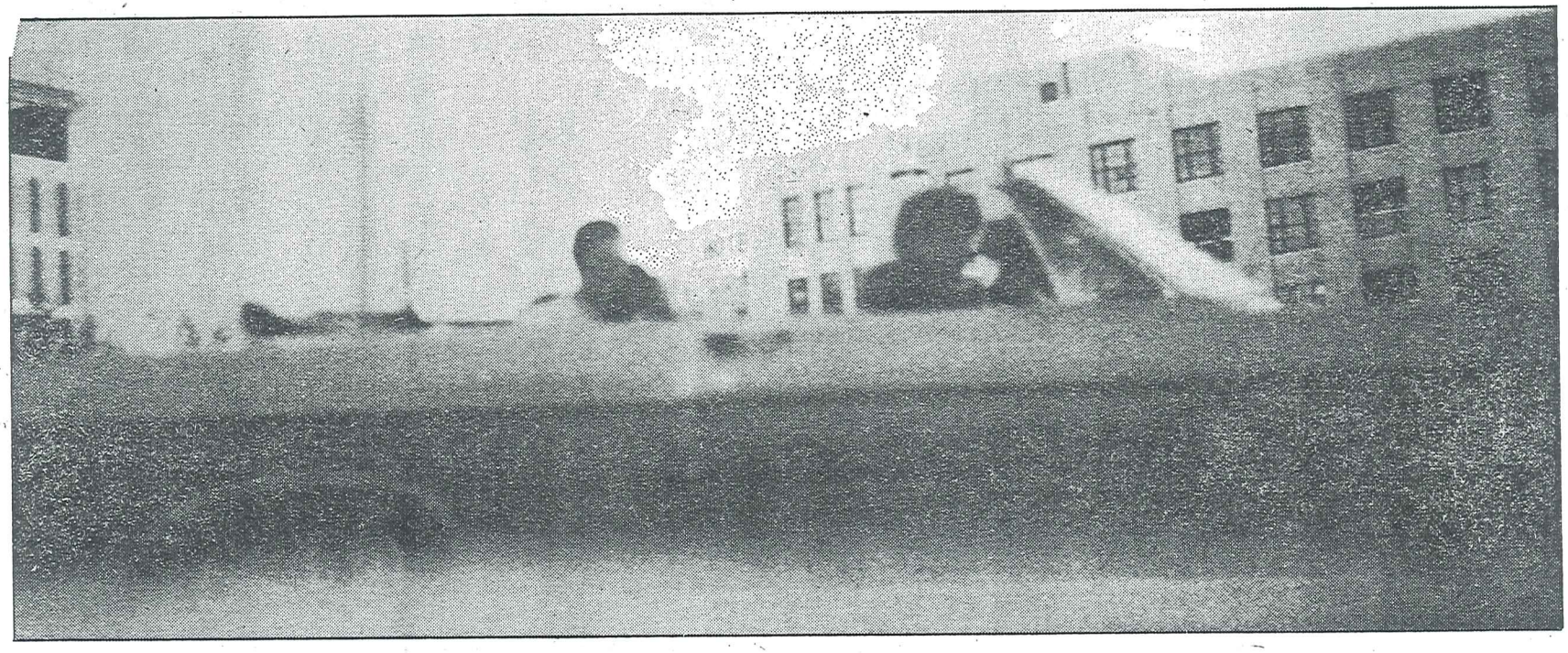
PHOTO (above) taken from accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's perch in Book Depository building. Arrow points to where President's car was and just above arrow people are gathered at spot where unidentified man, said by some to be E. Howard Hunt, reached down to pick up object believed to be spent shell. With the man (photo at right) are Dallas sheriff's deputy Buddy Walthers (in civilian clothes) and Dallas police officer J.S. Foster. Photo (lower left) is blow-up of man's hand as he picked up the object.

A Gunman Hiding In Underground Sewer System Could Easily



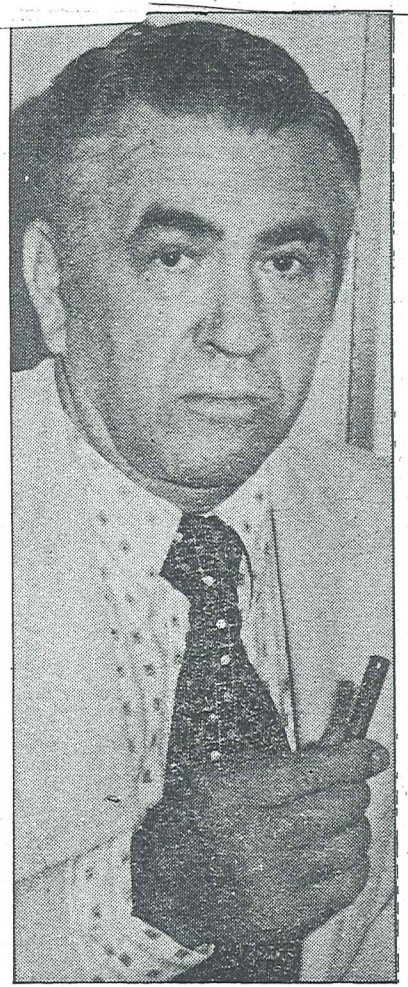
New Evidence Adds Im

Have Drawn a Bead on JFK's Car As It Slowly Passed By



pact to 'Sewer Assassin' Theory

FIRST MAN to propose the 'sewer assassin' theory was Al Chapman. In presenting his ideas to Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's conspiracy probe, he pointed out how easy it would be for a normal sized man to move through the sewer system to a drain opening parallel to the route taken by President Kennedy's motorcade (see photos, top of page). The .45 slug that many believe finished the President off could have come from that opening.



The first shot missed the President's open-top limousine altogether. It was fired from the vicinity of the Dal-Tex Building on the northeast corner of Elm and Houston – just across the street from the Texas School Book Depository Building.

The slug plowed a deep furrow in the cement on the curb on the south side of Elm Street, ripping up a patch of grass. The slug then richocheted onto a column of the triple underpass between Commerce and Main, chipping the concrete, and bounced down, embedding metal fragments into a section of the Elm Street curb.

Spectator Jim Tague, there to view the presidential motorcade, felt a sharp pain in his cheek. He felt his face and drew away blood. He had been nicked by slivers of concrete torn from the column.

Still visible today, 11 1/2 years later, is the furrow the slug left on the curb, the damage to the concrete column – but many months after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy Warren Commission investigators removed the section of curb with the metal fragments.

This was the first of seven shots fired into the presidential motorcade in Dealey Plaza during the noon hour on Nov. 22, 1963, according to private researchers of the Kennedy assassination.

Perhaps the first shot was not heard because of the roar of the motorcycles of the police escorts. Perhaps a silencer was used.

THE OTHER SHOTS found their marks – with the coup de gras, the slug that ripped away the top of Kennedy's head, being fired from a .45-caliber weapon from inside a storm drain.

The storm drain theory – backed by eyewitness testimony – was first expounded by Dallas assassination researcher Al Chapman and his associates. It was subscribed to by former New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, who tried unsuccessfully to prove a conspiracy in the murder of President Kennedy.

And Dallas policemen who were assigned to the Dealey Plaza investigation after the fusillade of shots were fired into the motorcade admit today they were not aware of the drainage system beneath the plaza and that it was not checked out.

The drainage system contains three potential sniper's nests.

As investigator Chapman pieces it together, these events followed the first shot that missed:

SHOT NO. 2 also comes from the rear – perhaps from the Dal-Tex Building or from the Texas School Book Depository where Lee Harvey Oswald had worked for several weeks.

This slug strikes Kennedy in the back, five inches down from the base of the neck and two inches right of his spine.

SHOT NO. 3 strikes Gov. John Connally, riding in the limousine with Kennedy. This shot comes from the west end of the Texas School Book Depository Building, where the Warren Commission said Oswald was perched with his Manlicher-Carcanno rifle.

SHOT NO. 4 is fired from in front of Kennedy, striking him in the throat and the wounded Connally is moaning, "My, God. They're going to kill us all."

SHOTS NO. 5 AND 6, and possibly a seventh shot, strike Kennedy in the head. Shot No. 5 drives Kennedy's head forward, the slug being fired from the rear.

Then the slug is fired from the open drain below the sidewalk on the north side of Elm

Street, the bullet exploding Kennedy's skull to the back and to the left. The President tumbles into wife Jacqueline's lap.

The Warren Commission claims that only three shots were fired, all from Oswald's bolt-action mail-order rifle from the sixth floor of the Book Depository in a five second period – a feat many experts say is impossible.

GARY CAMPBELL, a witness who did not become known until a decade after the assassination when he was discovered by Chapman, was standing on the southwest corner of Main and Houston beside a policeman, watching the motorcade.

Campbell had played hookey from school to get a glimpse of the President and was standing beside his motor bike when he heard a shot.

Campbell, then 14 and a student at Boule Storey Junior High School, was very familiar with firearms. He recognized the shot as coming from a 30.06 rifle.

He glanced up into the direction of the shot -- above the grassy knoll at the west end of Dealey Plaza. He saw a man pull a rifle down and disappear into a parking lot.

Campbell, now a Dallas insurance man, told Chapman he assumed the man was a Secret Service man.

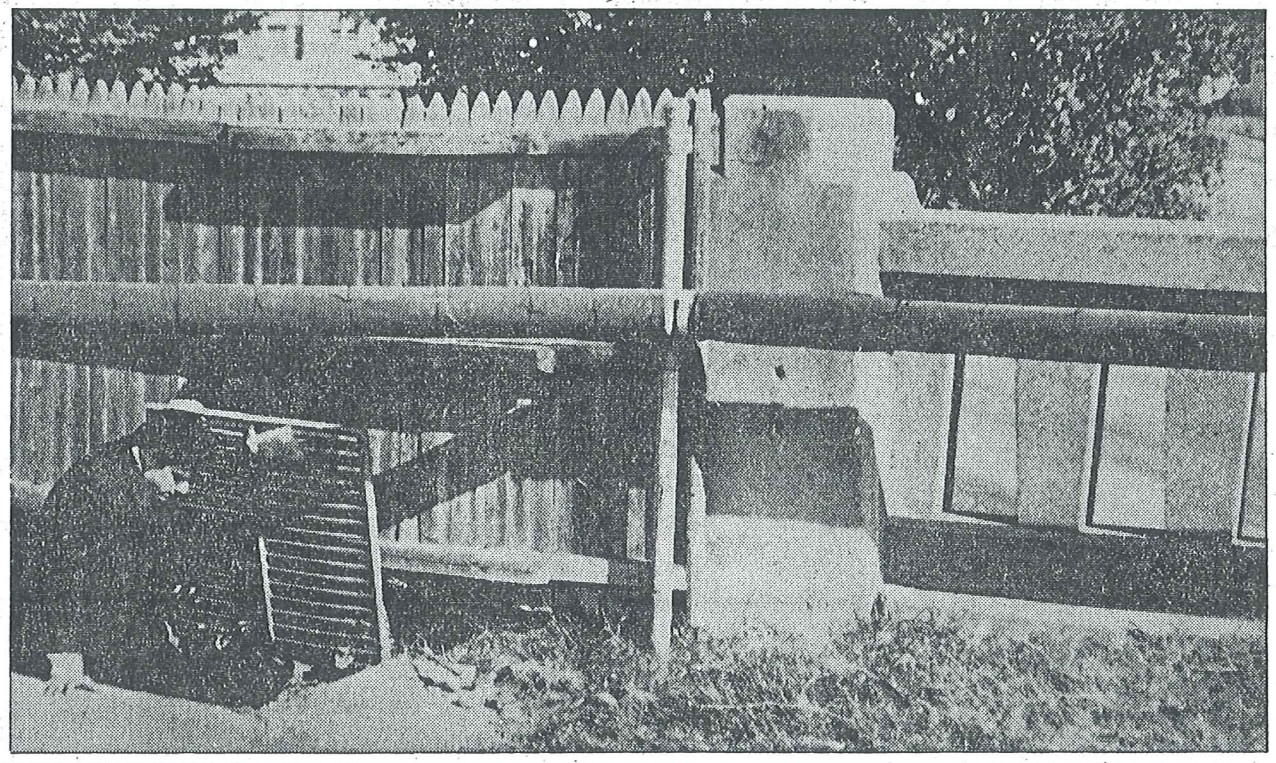
HE TOLD THE FBI what he saw, but the account, like so many others, apparently was disregarded.

The Dealey Plaza drainage system – the possibility of a sniper's nest overlooked by authorities at the time – figured into the shots that may have come from the leafy area by the picket fence near the railroad yards above Dealey Plaza.

Just behind the picket fence was an unused manhole, four feet square, covered with a grate.

Five feet deep, this opening could easily have concealed a man. It contained a drainage pipe that could have been an escape route for a small man. Or a gunman could have pulled the grate over him, remained there until it became safe to leave.

"It could have been burrowed out like a



pillbox," Chapman said. "One of the pickets could have been pulled back, the shots fired, then the assassin could have let the grate back down over him."

BACKING UP THE THEORY that a .45-caliber slug was fired from the Elm Street storm drain is a picture snapped by then newspaper photographer Willie Allen, now a commercial photographer in Little Rock, Ark., showing a man bending over picking up what apparently is a .45-caliber slug.

The late sheriff's deputy Buddy Walthers and Dallas Policeman J.W. Foster were also in the pictures. They have said they assumed the man was a federal agent, but they did not get his identification.

The .45-caliber bullet, prosecutor Garrison said, was never mentioned in the 26 volumes of the Warren Commission report.

The scene of the apparent .45-caliber slug is on the south side of Elm Street, directly across from the storm drain.

GARRISON, IN an interview with Dallas broadcast newsman Murphy Martin, had this to say about the storm drains:

"Right next to where the President was killed, there is a sewer opening. Underneath Dealey Plaza there is a drainage system. Dealey Plaza used to have a bunch of houses and they were taken down to make the plaza.

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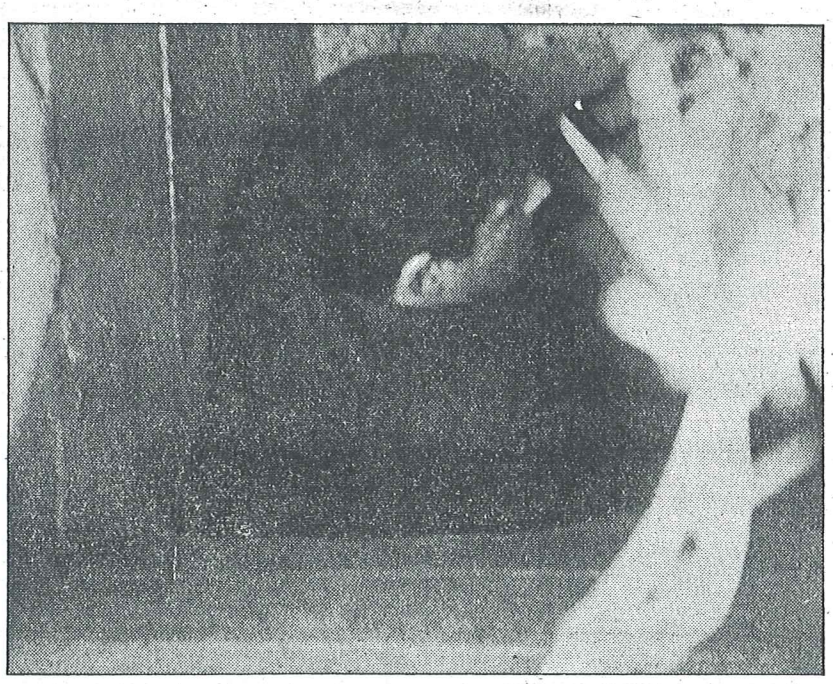


THESE STAGED photos offer proof that a man could easily exit and enter the sewer system. Photo at left is behind grassy knoll where some witnesses say they saw puffs of smoke as if from a rifle.

You have a surface drainage system with pipes through which men can crawl.

"The small ones are 15 inches wide, and the large ones are 30 inches wide. One of the assassins made his exit through the sub-surface drainage system. The one who went through the sub-surface drainage system was the man who killed the President, who fired the .45 from the right by the side of the car and tore the President's head off."

Garrison found that a man fits into the drain easily.

"WE ALSO FOUND that after shooting from it it's easy to crawl under the street through the 15-inch pipe, then you're in a 30-inch sewer which leads out of Dealey Plaza to another part of the town."

Chapman noted the drainage system gradually widens into an opening "large enough to drive a freight engine into."

In fact, about a year ago, the Dallas establishment considered making the underground exit point into a commercial amusement operation.

A significant witness to the theory that a shot was fired from the Elm Street gutter is Sam Pate, who in 1963 was a newsman for KBOX radio in Dallas.

HIS ASSIGNMENT was to cover the President's motorcade from Love Field to the Trade Mart, where Kennedy was to attend a luncheon.

He rushed ahead of the motorcade, stopped at Elm and Houston and when the President's car pulled around Main Street onto Houston, Pate pulled his station wagon ahead of the Kennedy limousine.

Just under the triple underpass, Pate said in a taped interview with TATTLER correspondent Chapman, he looked into his rear view mirror and "saw some commotion out of the ordinary."

Then, said Page, he saw a puff of smoke curl from the gutter just beside the President's car.

Then Pate scooped the world, broadcasting through his open channels that the President's motorcade had been attacked.

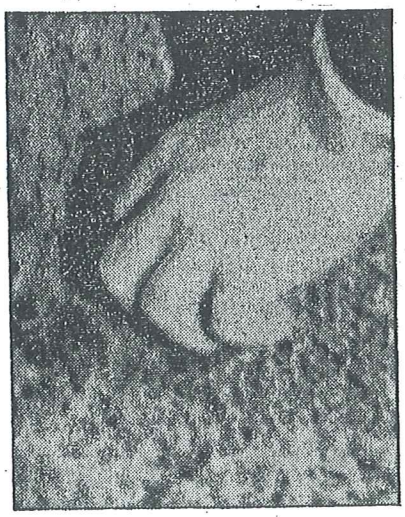
PATE WHEELED his car onto Stemmons Freeway, then U-turned and headed back in the wrong direction. He found the President's speeding auto coming toward him, with Secret Service agents waving machine guns and, "It liked to have scared me to death."

Pate cut off Stemmons at the Continental exit and pulled up behind the Book Depository building. A railroad worker removed a barricade to let him through and Pate said he saw a man, coattails flying, running away from the scene, down Pacific Street, one block parallel to Elm.

Days later, according to Pate, he overheard a discussion among some underworld characters and remarked that he had seen smoke coming from the gutter. One of the characters said vaguely that a man named "Bruno" was supposed to have been in the drain and fired the shot.

Mrs. Jean Lollis Hill, a spectator, said she saw a man with a brown hat and a topcoat running up the hill after shots were fired. Mrs. Hill said she began chasing the running man. "I don't know what I would have done if I caught him," she said. She lost sight of the man as people yelled, "Did he get away? Which way did he go?"

POLICEMAN B.G. Hargis, riding a motorcycle behind the Kennedy car, was splattered in the face by Kennedy's brains.

He parked his motorcycle, jumped over the manhole covering the gutter drain and ran up the grassy slope. But Hargis and other policemen did not check out the gutter or the hole behind the picket fence.

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